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HOW OUR COUNTY 4-H CLUB ORGANIZATION HELPS WITH OUR FARM PROBLEMS RECEIVED

A radio talk by Viley Johnson, 4-H club boy, Pittsburg County, Oklahoma, delivered in the National 4-H club radio program, December 7, 1935, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

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It is a pleasure to have this opportunity of talking to you regarding ways our county 4-H Club organization helps with our farm problems.

In my home county the entire 4-H Club membership is represented in a county wide organization, known as the Pittsburg County 4-H Club Federation. The President, Vice president, and secretary of the local 4-H Club compose the executive committee which represents the local club at the regular quarterly meetings of the county organization. It is at the county 4-H Federation meetings that our annual program of work is outlined, and reports of progress are made. The county 4-H Federation plan is followed by all counties in my state, and it has been found a very satisfactory plan of conducting 4-H Club work in Oklahoma.

It should be understood of course that our State club leaders and the county agricultural agent and home demonstration agent in reality direct the 4-H Club activities of the respective counties in my State of Oklahoma.

Now, that I have briefly discussed the setup and mechanics of our county 4-H Club organization, let us see how it helps with our farm problems. At this point permit me to cite some definite examples of how this has been done in my state.

In my county the 4-H Club organization introduced forestry work through the cooperation of the state Forest service. The first year this project was undertaken by the 4-H Club members 5,000 trees were obtained, planted, and cared for. With literally hundreds of acres of marginal land in my county the matter of reforestation may be properly regarded as an important farm problem, and our county 4-H Club Organization did a worth act in starting the forestry work in my county.

In our county, we have each year, as a part of the county organization's plan of work a team demonstration contest. The public is invited to attend this contest. Team demonstrations are given, showing the best methods available for use on the farm and in the farm home. This unquestionably helps with our farm problems because the county 4-H club organization brings these better methods to the rural folk.

Another piece of work that has been carried on in Pittsburg County is the cooperation of the 4-H Clubs with the home demonstration clubs in the farm home improvement work. This was done throughout the entire county. Blanks were distributed to all members and captains were appointed to get the reports of work done. These reports when tabulated showed that there had been 1095 yards, lots and fence rows cleaned, 140 lots and yards graded and drained, 48 doorsteps and 968 gates repaired. During these years of economic distress, the matter of farm home improvement certainly has been one of our major farm

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problems and no doubt 4-H Club members everywhere, through their county 4-H organization are doing much to keep farmsteads livable.

In my state the need for checking soil erosion is very important. County 4-H organizations throughout the state have for the past ten years included terracing projects for their members. These members have in turn learned to use the farm level in laying off terrace lines and dams for farm ponds. Today these boys are doing custom work for farmers and land owners and are thereby helping greatly with one of the important farm problems.

Recreation is emphasized through our county 4-H Club organizations. Through the 4-H recreation activities, rural people are reached by their own boys and girls with songs, games, and plays which are so necessary in keeping people happy and contented.

Older 4-H Club boys and former 4-H Club members are being used in the administration of the Agricultural Adjustment Act. These boys have proved that the 4-H training received, through their county 4-H Federation, has equipped them for the practical application of their knowledge in dealing with the greatest current farm problem--that of overproduction.

There is no end to the examples which could be cited on how our county 4-H organizations help with our farm problems. I have mentioned only a few. The ultimate aim and goal of all our county 4-H organizations in helping with our farm problems is to make the rural community a better place in which to live.

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